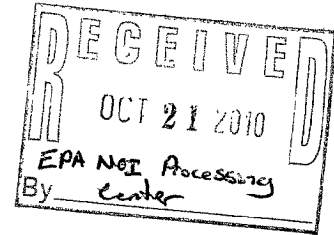


R03-OW-2009-0985

OCT 27 2010

October 20, 2010



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water (4101M)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Spruce #1 Mine project in West Virginia

A New York Times article (October 16, 2010) reports Shawn M. Garvin's recommendation to revoke the permit for the Spruce #1 Mine in West Virginia.

That recommendation must be put into practice and enforced. For too long under the administration of George W. Bush, the EPA bowed to pressure by the administration and "Big Coal" and its lobbyists. Revocation of the permit would prevent further environmental and social destruction caused by the permits allowing "mountain top removal" that already have been issued and implemented. Coal is not a clean fuel, and it is highly unlikely that it ever can be. But the destruction of thousands of acres of land and miles of streams is neither wise nor acceptable. Clean water, wildlife, and the health of communities all are connected.

May I add that if the EPA truly wishes to receive public comment on issues, it should amend its website to facilitate such comment. If this letter has been addressed to the wrong office, please forward it to the correct one.

Yours very truly,

Robert J. Wernick, Ph.D.
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